

## Kelly Hunnings

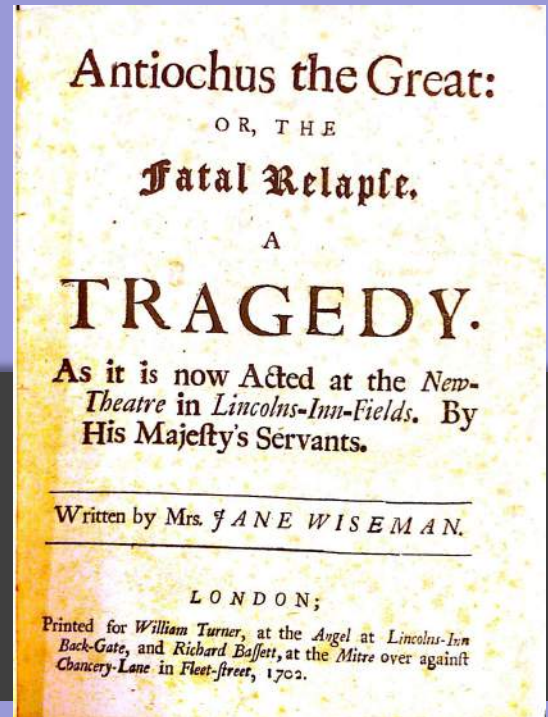
Dept. of English

Thursday, February 26

12:30-1:30 PM

SUB Cherry/Silver

### Patronage, Poetic Identity, and Domestic Tensions: Jane Wiseman and Mary Leapor, 1717-1746



The laboring-class poetic tradition enjoyed a long vogue in the eighteenth-century. Fashionable circles of England were enamored by poetry that was a departure from the Augustan tradition, as laid in place by prominent writers such as Alexander Pope and John Dryden. Laboring-class or “unlettered” poets maintained domestic service positions and were assisted and financially supported by a literary patron.

Two such writers are the cosmopolitan Jane Wiseman and the rural Mary Leapor. These two figures, early within the period, allow critics to better understand the unique tensions that existed between patrons and poets and, in doing so, show us how these tensions are often expressed through chaotic portrayals of the domestic. This talk will explore how Wiseman and Leapor operate as important writers in the laboring-class poetic tradition, and will place both Wiseman and Leapor as a foundation on which we may view the shift from Augustan models of intellectualism to burgeoning Romantic thought in women’s laboring-class writing.

Kelly Hunnings is a PhD student in the British and Irish Literary Studies Program in the department of English Language and Literature at UNM. Her research primarily focuses on laboring-class women poets of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-centuries, literary patronage, and feminist representations of the domestic.



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